

## STATE OF INDIANA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

State House, Second Floor Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

December 28, 2007

Mr. Murray Clark Chairman Indiana Republican State Committee 47 S. Meridian St., Suite 200 Indianapolis, IN 46204

Mr. Dan Parker Chairman Indiana Democratic State Committee 1 N. Capitol, Suite 200 Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Murray and Dan:

As you are aware, the passing of The Honorable Julia Carson has created a vacancy in Indiana's Seventh Congressional District, necessitating the need for a special election to select a new United States Representative for the district to serve out the remainder of the term. Various provisions in the Constitution of the United States and the Indiana Code delegate to the Governor the authority and duty to call a special election by issuing, via Executive Order, a Writ of Election directed to the Clerk of the Court in the counties comprising the congressional district.

The practical effect of the election statutes direct that a date be chosen not sooner than 60 days from today, to give the two major parties time to caucus and select a candidate, to allow election officials to plan and organize a special election, and to give third party candidates time to fulfill ballot prerequisites, as well, should they so desire. Before the writ issues setting the date for the special election, the Governor has asked me to canvass the leadership of the two parties in an effort to achieve bipartisan consensus, if possible, on a date acceptable to all. The Governor is prepared to select any date that the parties can agree is fair and workable but has asked that I inquire about holding the special election on Primary Day to minimize taxpayer expense.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience at the number or email address below with any thoughts you might have pertinent to the decision. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Massa General Counsel (317) 233-5764 mmassa@gov.in.gov

Mark Masson

Cc: John Hammond Sherlonda Anderson